

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 CU-04 HA-05 COME-00 OMB-01 OIC-02
BIB-01 EB-08 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 IO-13 /094 W
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O R 200626Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4581
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USNATO
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 0414

FOR EUR/RPM, EUR/SOV AND ACDA FROM USDEL CSCE

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE, OCON
SUBJ: BELGRADE CSCE (CBMS): MANEUVER CEILING; ALLIED PRIORITIES;
WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

REF: A) STATE 13386; B) USNATO 419

1. NATO CBMS CAUCUS JANUARY 19 ADDRESSED SOVIET MANEUVER
CEILING PROPOSAL, ALLIED CBM PRIORITIES, AND LANGUAGE FOR
CONTINGENCY USE ON WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE.

2. MANEUVER CEILING. US INFORMED CAUCUS OF CURRENT USG
POSITION, DRAWING FULLY ON PARA THREE REF A. ENLARGING
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UPON IDEA OF AGREEMENT SIMPLY TO CONFINE MANEUVER ACTIVITIY TO
CURRENT SCALE, ADVANCED BY UK DEL AT NATO/POLADS/CSCE
EXPERTS MEETING JANUARY 12 (UK SECOND OPTION, REPORTED
PARA 1C REF B), UK REP SAID "SCALE" WAS ENVISAGED AS
ENCOMPASSING BOTH SIZE AND FREQUENCY AND PERHAPS ALSO
GEOGRAPHIC AREA, THOUGH THE LAST ELEMENT HAD NOT YET
BEEN THOROUGHLY THOUGHT THROUGH. HE SAID IDEA MIGHT BE

FORMULATED EITHER AS A FIRM COMMITMENT OR AS A STATEMENT OF WHAT WOULD BE DESIRABLE. HOWEVER, UK AUTHORITIES NO LONGER SEE THIS AS SOMETHING TO BE OFFERED TO THE SOVIETS EARLY ON AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO A MORE SPECIFIC CEILING RESTRICTION, BUT RATHER AS A FALLBACK POSITION TO BE USED ONLY IF SOVIETS SHOW INSUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY ON ALLIED CBM PROPOSALS TO WARRANT ALLIED AGREEMENT TO A SPECIFIC NUMERICAL CEILING. FRG, NORWEGIAN AND CANADIAN REPS ALL REGISTERED PRELIMINARY DOUBTS ABOUT UK SECOND OPTION. THESE RELATED TO PROBLEM OF DEFINITION (WHAT IS BASELINE FOR "CURRENT"), DANGER OF RESTRICTING ALLIED FLEXIBILITY TO REACT TO CHANGING EXERCISE REQUIREMENTS, AND OPPORTUNITY IMPRECISE OBLIGATION OF THIS SORT MIGHT GIVE TO SOVIETS TO PORTRAY CERTAIN WESTERN MANEUVERS AS VIOLATIONS.

3. ALLIED PRIORITIES. REPS OF ITALY, FRG, GREECE, TURKEY, CANADA, UK, NETHERLANDS, US, NORWAY AND DENMARK INDICATED PRIORITIES THEIR GOVERNMENTS ASSIGN TO THE MAJOR ELEMENTS OF THE ALLIED CBMS PROPOSAL (I.E., A 10,000 THRESHOLD FOR NOTIFICATION OF SMALLER-SCALE MANEUVERS; A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TREATMENT OF OBSERVERS; AND NOTIFICATION OF MAJOR MAOVMENTS). ALL BUT THE US AND THE FRG EITHER GIVE TOP PRIORITY TO MOVEMENTS NOTIFICATION ALONE OR GIVE EQUAL TOP PRIORITY TO MOVEMENTS AND SMALLER SCALE MANEUVERS; OF THESE COUNTRIES, ALL BUT ITALY PUT AN OBSERVER CODE THIRD IN IMPORTANCE (IN MOST CASES A CONFIDENTIAL

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DISTANT THIRD) BEHIND MOVEMENTS AND SMALLER-SCALE MANEUVERS; ITALY PUTS OBERVERS SECOND, SMALLER-SCALE MANEUVERS THIRD. THE FRG REPORTED THE SAME ORDER OF PREFERENCE AS THE US: SMALLER-SCALE MANEUVERS AS TOP PRIORITY, AN OBSERVER CODE SECOND, AND MOVEMENTS NOTIFICATION THIRD. IT WAS AGREED THAT THERE IS NO NEED TO TRY TO REACH CONSENSUS ON A SINGLE PRIORITY LISTING AT THIS STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. REFERENCE TO WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE. FRG REP SAID BONN COULD ACCEPT, AS A FALLBACK CONCESSION IN CONCLUDING DOCUMENT LANGUAGE ON DISARMAMENT, A REFERENCE TO WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE ALONG LINES PROPOSED BY CANADIAN DEL AND ENDORSED BY US (I.E., A REFERENCE NOTING THAT ONE OF THE AGENDA ITEMS OF THE SSOD IS, "REVIEW OF THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN DISARMAMENT AND OF THE INTERNATIONAL MACHINERY FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON DISARMAMENT INCLUDING, IN PARTICULAR, THE QUESTION OF HOLDING A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE"). UK REP SAID HIS AUTHORITIES OBJECTED TO SINGLING OUT FOR MENTION ONE SSOD AGENDA ITEM, PARTICULARLY ONE WHICH THEY REGARD AS FAR FROM THE MOST IMPORTANT, AND WOULD PREFER A REFERENCE TO THE IDEA OF A

WDC, IF ONE SHOULD BECOME TACTICALLY DESIRABLE, TO TAKE
EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING FORMS:

A. "THE PARTICIPATING STATES ALSO BELIEVE THAT A
WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE MIGHT GIVE IMPETUS TO
PROGRESS TOWARDS DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS, PROVIDED IT
IS PROPERLY PREPARED AND ATTENDED BY ALL MILITARY
SIGNIFICANT STATES, INCLUDING ALL NUCLEAR POWERS."

B. "THEY NOTED IN THIS CONNECTION THE NEED TO GIVE
FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO THE QUESTION OF CONVENING A
WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME."

5. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE ON UK FORMULATIONS PARA 4 ABOVE.
GOLDBERG

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NNN

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